

## ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

An apparatus for and a method of performing running optimum power control (OPC) of a laser diode writing power in an optical drive. The apparatus and method obtain an optimum writing characteristic where the writing environment of the optical drive changes. A first normalized write signal having a first linear characteristic with respect to writing power is detected using predetermined condition values to set a first normalized write signal as a reference signal. A second normalized write signal having a second linear characteristic with respect to writing power is detected using the predetermined condition values, while writing data to a user area on the optical medium. The writing power of the laser diode is controlled based on determining whether the second normalized write signal is approximate to the first normalized write signal.

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